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FLOOR DEBATE

March 8, 2001 LB 677, 759

who care to? Record.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 677.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The bill advances. (Visitors announced.) LB 759.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 759, a bill by Senator Raikes. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17 of this year, referred to the Education Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President. I'm sorry, I do have committee amendments to the bill. (AM0706, Legislative Journal page 894.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 759 is a bill that would position Nebraska to create wider access to successful early childhood education programs. In December of 2000, there was a report from the Lieutenant Governor's Early Childhood Interagency Team. One of the findings of that report I'll read to you quickly. In the area of early learning and development, the time has come to expand the number of communities offering early childhood development programs patterned after the ten successful early childhood projects initiated in 1992. These community-based programs combine a variety of funding sources to serve all children in inclusive settings. Each will be designed to meet the identified needs in particular communities. The Governor's budget will contain a request for additional appropriations to expand these projects, based on a partnership between schools and community-based organizations in new communities across the state. LB 59 (sic) is a bill that will allow this finding or recommendation to be carried forward. The Governor has committed to...made a commitment, financial commitment, to fund early childhood education. Three million dollars was included in the Governor's budget. The Appropriations Committee's preliminary report includes \$1 million for the first year and \$2 million for the second year. Again, LB 59 (sic) builds on results produced